



*Durham Scouts Tall Ships crew on board the James Cook*

## Another Great Summer

2018 was another great summer of Scouting with plenty of sleepovers, camps and adventures for our young people.

Scouts from Darlington and Derwentside headed off to France for a week and almost seventy members from Blaydon district visited Adelboden in Switzerland for a week of fun and adventure.

Our Tall Ships crew sailed from Stavanger in Norway to Harlingen in the Netherlands, encountering force 8 gales and 7m high seas along the way, and rose to the challenge of a helicopter evacuation in the middle of the night, in the middle of the North Sea.

While all this was going on, six of our explorer scouts took part in another life changing adventure - the Outward Bound "Skills for Life" course at Ullswater in the Lake District.

Closer to home, plenty of beavers took part in sleepovers and a number of colonies joined in with the first ever 'Damboree', which is designed to get more

beavers camping and beaver leaders obtaining nights away permits (we're looking to coordinate this in the county next year and hold a Damboree beaver camp at Moor House – see <https://www.damboree.co.uk/> for more details of what it's all about).

There were of course also plenty of cub camps, week long scout troop and explorer scout camps, including a growing number attending international Jamboree camps here in the UK such as Red Rose in Cumbria and the Walesby International Experience in Nottinghamshire.

We're already aware of even more visits abroad next year with explorer scout skiing trips and visits to Croatia planned, 54 of our young people heading off to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia and another 70+ members of the county heading to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland

**Thanks to all our leaders and other volunteers who made this great summer of fun and adventure possible.**

## 2018 Dates at a Glance

Here are the key dates between now and the next edition of the **Durham ePost** (Winter Edition – published on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019).

- Trustees Support Group Meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> September @ Moor House
- Jamboree Unit 30 (Durham) Camp:** 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September @ Comondale
- Archery Permit Course:** 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September @ 1<sup>st</sup> Whickham HQ
- County Team (Operations) Meeting:** 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> October @ Moor House
- Confido:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October @ Moor House
- County Young Leader Training Weekend:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October @ Moor House
- Introduction to Navigation Day:** 14<sup>th</sup> October @ Muggleswick Common
- Training Advisors Meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> October @ Moor House
- Finance Board Meeting:** 7pm, 25<sup>th</sup> October @ Moor House
- Hill Walking Course:** 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October @ Chester's cottage
- Executive Committee (Governance) Meeting:** 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> November @ Moor House
- Jamboree Unit 33 (Yorkham) Camp:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November
- DC's Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> October @ Moor House
- Moor House Management Board Meeting:** 7pm, 29<sup>th</sup> November @ Moor House
- Explorer Section Leaders Training Workshops:** 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November @ Moor House
- Section Forum Meetings:** 7pm, 5<sup>th</sup> December @ Moor House

### Coming Soon



Please see page 26 for all **Adult Training** dates.

Also see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/adult-training/> to book courses.

Always please remember to check the county calendar for full details (locations, time etc.) and for any late changes:

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/>

To add the county calendar to your calendar application or view in a web browser use:

#### ICAL (to add to a calendar app)

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/webdurhamscouts%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

#### HTTPS (to display in any web browser):

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=webdurhamscouts%40gmail.com&ctz=Europe/London>

## 2019 Dates

Dates for 2019 will be published online by the end of September 2018 – please remember to check county dates when planning your district, group and section programmes for next year.

## Summer Meetings

More sections are now choosing to meet through the school holidays, including the long summer break.

While this is difficult for sections and groups who meet in school premises, plenty of sections are now starting to see the benefits of providing activities for their young people through the school holidays, especially the summer months when our young people are often at a loose end for something to do.

When sections meet through the holidays they find that they can provide more fun and adventurous activities and that they lose fewer members.

Sections who do meet through the summer break tell us that:

- Programmes need to be planned well in advance, along with any camp dates, taking leaders family holidays in to account so that everyone can take a break from Scouting
- Programmes need to be more flexible, due to variability in youth numbers as our young people also take family holidays
- It's an ideal opportunity to use the better weather and lighter nights to get outdoors and plan activities such as wide games, beach barbecues, water fights, evening hikes etc (even sections who meet in schools can do this).

If you didn't meet this last summer and may have found that you've lost some members since July, why not consider meeting during the school holidays?

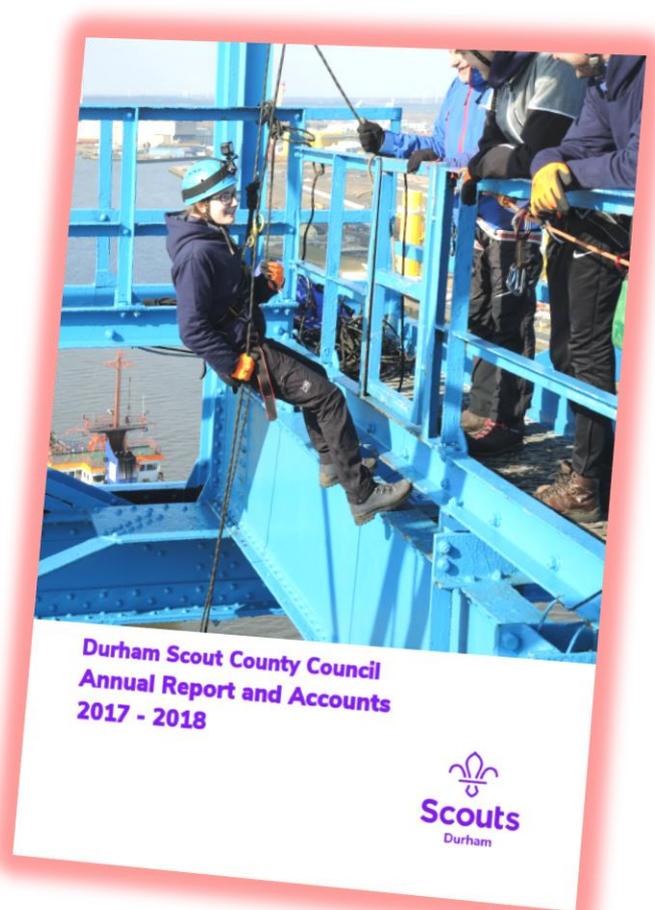
Just because schools stop, Scouting doesn't have to.

## Annual General Meeting / Annual Report and Accounts

Thanks to everyone who came to the county AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> September – our best attended AGM for several years, thanks in a large part to some interesting presentations from our explorer scouts who took part in this years' Outward Bound "Skills for Life" course and the Tall Ships race.

Prior to the AGM a copy of the 2017-18 Annual Report and Accounts was emailed to every adult member of the county. If you missed that you can still download a copy (and the previous two years reports/accounts) from the county website at

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/governance/>



## Membership Subscriptions and 2018 Census

You may have seen in emails from HQ that next year national membership subscriptions will increase by £1.00 per youth member.

At the recent Scout Association AGM at the Gilwell Reunion, Chief Executive of the Scout Association Matt Hyde explained that while this will bring in around £450,000, in 2017-18 the Association's safeguarding costs increased by more than £700,000 as we continue to be a leader in safeguarding practices in the charity youth sector.

At a time when Scouting is seen as leader in the field of safeguarding within youth charities we need to ensure that we continue to meet both regulatory and parental expectations for safeguarding the welfare of our youth members.

A decision on the Durham Scouts county levy will be made at the 1<sup>st</sup> November Executive Committee

meeting and will be communicated to all districts shortly thereafter.

Dates for the completion of the annual census and payment of membership subscriptions are as follows:

- Census to be conducted as of **31st January 2019**
- Group census to be completed online and approved **before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**
- District census to be completed and approved by districts **15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**
- County census to be completed and approved by **27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**
- Payment of group subscriptions to districts **before 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019** (allowing time for funds to clear)
- Payment of district subscriptions to county: **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019** (to allow transactions to be completed before 31st March – end of financial year for most districts and the county)

Note that districts who do not meet the payment deadline to county of 19<sup>th</sup> March will NOT receive the national prompt payment discount.



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Abbie Robinson in action!

## Gold!

A big shout out to one of our cub leaders in Sunderland – Abigail Robinson.

Abbie – who first climbed at Moor House - was selected for the Team GB paraclimbing team this year, and won gold in her first international competition, the World Cup in Briancon in France in July.

She has gone on to compete in Innsbruck and has just been crowned world champion in her category (Women's B2 - Visual impairment).



Abbie on the podium in Innsbruck

Life is about what you can do, not what you can't, and Abbie is a great inspiration to our young people!

## Skills for Life / County Development and Action Plan

Back in May the national "Skills for Life" strategy was launched.

The national Skills for Life strategy is outlined in a single graphic on the next page and if you haven't seen what underlies the strategy you can read all about it in a booklet written just for our members and available at [https://scouts.org.uk/media/934814/Movement-Skills-for-life-booklet-A4\\_Movement-facing\\_-spreads-1-.pdf](https://scouts.org.uk/media/934814/Movement-Skills-for-life-booklet-A4_Movement-facing_-spreads-1-.pdf)

Following the June 2<sup>nd</sup> County Development Day, the new County Development / Action Plan has been approved and some actions are already complete

(published at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/2018-2023-development-plan/>).

The County Development / Action plan is aligned with the national "Skills for Life" strategy and is also based on the priorities that you told us were important in your groups and districts.

You told us that the most important things are the recruitment of more adults, adult training and more support for the young leader scheme

You can read more about what we're doing in these areas elsewhere in the newsletter.

# Skills for Life

## Our plan to prepare better futures 2018-2023

### Our vision

By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

### Our mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

### Our values

We act with care, respect, integrity, cooperation, exploring our own and others' beliefs.

### Our goals

By delivering this plan we will achieve the following goals against our four objectives:

#### Growth

- 50k more young people
- 10k more Section Leaders
- 5k more Young Leaders

#### Inclusivity

- Our volunteers reflect the demographics of our society
- In 500 more areas of deprivation

#### Youth Shaped

- 250k young people shape their Scouting each year
- 50% young people achieve top awards

#### Community Impact

- 250k young people making a positive impact in their local communities each year
- 50% young people achieve top awards

### Our three pillars of work

To support the Movement to achieve these objectives, we will focus on three pillars of work:

#### Programme

A fun, enjoyable, high quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.

#### People

More, well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers, and more young people from diverse backgrounds.

#### Perception

Scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today.

To align with the national and county strategy, all sections, groups and districts have a set of actions to implement and these are published in this edition of the newsletter.

We also expect that every district and group we create or update their own development plans to reflect both their local needs (which we will help support) and the "Skills for Life" actions.

## Format Change

You may not have spotted it (yet), but we've gone back to a two-column layout for the Durham ePost.

Although the HQ newsletter templates suggest the use of a three-column layout, your feedback was that this requires too much scrolling up and down on mobile devices (phones and tablets).

We'll continue to review the format to see how we can make the Durham ePost as user friendly as possible and in the coming months we'll be asking you for more feedback on how and where you read the newsletter and how we can make it more accessible for all our readers.

## Online Scout Manager (OSM)

In the last Durham ePost we shared with you plans for the county to licence Online Scout Manager, to reduce your subscription costs.

Under the new County Development / Action Plan, responsibility for this will fall to a new Assistant County

Commissioner (Youth Programme) who we expect to appoint by the end of 2018.

We therefore expect county-based subscriptions to be in place in the first quarter 2019.



## County News



David Stokes

County Commissioner

cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

I've had a great summer!

Since the last newsletter I've

- Taken part in Northern Pride
- Spent a week on camp with Darlington explorer scouts (great camp – thanks guys)
- Meet the Tall Ships crew in Amsterdam and sailed back to the UK with them on the ferry
- Attended the Outward Bound Skills for Life presentation evening at Ullswater and returned home with our explorer scout attendees

### Skills for Life

### Actions for YOUR SECTION:

Section Leaders and Assistants should

- Roll out the updated Brand across the section
- Support Growth, especially in 'small sections' (less than 12 youth members)
- Use the programme quality checker to review your programme
- Ensure all section leaders and assistants to complete programme training modules (12A and 12B)
- Complete Inclusivity RAG checklists for the Sections
- Hold 'termly' log chews, pack forums, patrol leaders councils and explorer scout forums
- Deliver the Teamwork (beavers, cubs, scouts) and Team Leader (cubs) Challenge Awards
- Run A Million Hands or local community impact project to achieve the Community Impact staged activity badge

See <https://scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/volunteer-actions/section-leaders/> for more details

- Had a mini-break in Switzerland, including a recce trip to Kandersteg for next year's county expedition
- Spent four days assessing two Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition in the Yorkshire Dales (well done everyone)
- Attended the Gilwell Reunion, which was attended by just under 50 members from Durham Scouts

I'll be the first to admit that I'm very lucky to be able to do all these things, but I also feel very privileged to be able to meet and spend time with so many of our young people and their wonderful leaders.

As you'll read in this edition of the Durham ePost, there's always a lot going on and lot's being planned.

We also have a new County Development / Action Plan, which will guide us as we implement the new Skills for Life strategy and look to provide the support you tell us you need.

As you'll read elsewhere, the new plan is published on the county website and a copy has also been emailed to all our volunteers. Interestingly, publication of our new development plan has attracted some outside interest and we've been asked to share it with Durham County Council and the North East Regional Cadet Forces Board – that must mean that we're doing something right!

The most important thing under the new development plan is that we all – sections, groups, districts and the scout county – work together to support, develop and grow Scouting.

There's a lot to do between now and 2023, but I am convinced that by all working together we can deliver even better Scouting to even more young people over the next five years.

## Occasional Badges

I was looking at the great photographs from the recent Awards Day and noticed that a lot of our young people – mostly beaver scouts and cub scouts – still have occasional badges sewn around the bottom of their uniform sweatshirt or jumper (example shown).



Occasional badges around the hem of uniform sweatshirts, jumpers or shirts is NOT allowed

I've written about this before – this is not official uniform and I now remind all section leaders, Group Scout Leaders and District Commissioners that this practice must stop.

We are a uniformed organisation and we cannot be 'uniform' when items of clothing start to resemble patchwork quilts!

Our rules are that:

- Occasional badges may only be worn on the left breast of the uniform sweatshirt, jumper or shirt (I am very happy to give permission for all sorts of badges to be worn in this way).
- They may be worn for a maximum of 12 months

Looking at the photographs from the Awards Day it's clear that in some sections recent occasional badges are still being added to the bottom of uniforms and are staying there... for ever!

This is not the fault of our young people, as it is our leaders who are allowing them to do this. I don't expect our beavers and cubs to now remove badges that they've already been told it's okay to sew on in this way, but we must stop adding new badges until the practice dies out.

I do now intend to challenge leaders I meet over this practice and would ask that GSLs and DCs also challenge this with leaders when they see this.

I understand that our young people like badges and like to keep their occasional badges as mementos. The best way to do this is to encourage our young people to acquire and keep a camp blanket on to which occasional badges can be sewn. In this way these memories will live on much longer than when sewn to an item of uniform that will be outgrown.

(sorry to be a grump...)

## Growth and Development



### Small Sections

In preparing the new County Development / Action Plan we have identified that although we have relatively few groups who are missing a beaver colony, cub pack or scout troop, we have a significant number of 'small sections'

These are sections with less than 12 young people and represent some of our best opportunities for growth in the county.

It's also important for our young people that they are not members of 'small sections', because a lack of numbers can often limit the type and variety of activities that we offer. Problems range from not being able to play some types of game, to not having enough members to complete sections of Challenge Badges and Chief Scouts Awards.

There is also the issue that our young people in 'small sections' are missing out on important social aspects of being a member of Scouting.

The two main barriers to growing 'small sections' are:

- Lack of adult volunteers (which we will be tackling through the adult recruitment aspects of the new County Development / Action Plan)
- Quality of programme i.e. the programme needs some work to make it more interesting and engaging for our young people

All section leaders are encouraged to review their programmes using the appropriate Quality Programme Checker

which can be found online at

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/4242/review-your-programme?cat=419.767.858>

This asks you some simple questions about your colony, pack, troop or unit and a copy of the scout troop programme checker is shown below.

By answering a few simple questions, you can see if your programme needs some work, and if so which areas of the programme you should look at.

By improving our programmes (and by working together to recruit more adult volunteers) it's hoped that we can help grow our smaller colonies, packs, troops and units and start to make an inroad to our waiting lists across the county (we currently have 50,000+ young people waiting to join Scouting nationally, with ~700 of those here in Durham).

<p><b>How many activity badges do most Scouts gain before leaving the section?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 15</li> <li>9-15</li> <li>Up to 8</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenge awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All requirements are met; variety of activities and methods; delivered in an interesting and engaging way; spread throughout the programme.</li> <li>All of the requirements are met; activities and methods not always engaging; concentrated over a short period of time.</li> <li>Some of the requirements are met; activities and methods not always varied and engaging; do not regularly feature in the programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How many activities take place outside the normal meeting place per year?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 6</li> <li>3-6</li> <li>Up to 3</li> </ul>	<p><b>Youth Involvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Termly Troop Forums/ Troop Leadership Forums. Regular opportunities to influence the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is acted upon.</li> <li>Irregular Troop Forums/ Troop Leadership Forums. Some opportunity to influence the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is sometimes acted upon.</li> <li>No Troop Forums/ Troop Leadership Forums. Rare opportunity to influence the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is occasionally acted upon.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How many times per year does your Troop engage with the local community?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 or more</li> <li>2</li> <li>0-1</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How often does your Troop take part in any of the following activities each year:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National programme initiatives</li> <li>County</li> <li>District</li> <li>With another section</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 3</li> <li>2</li> <li>0-1</li> </ul>	<p><b>Delivery of the programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme is always well planned; run by those with a range of appropriate skills; uses a variety of methods. Feedback gathered from young people is positive.</li> <li>Programme is normally well planned; uses a variety of methods; usually run by those with appropriate skills. Feedback gathered from young people is normally positive.</li> <li>Programme is occasionally well planned; limited variety in the methods used; programme is not always run those with appropriate skills. Feedback from young people is mixed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What percentage of Scouts gain the Chief Scout Gold Award?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 60%</li> <li>20-60%</li> <li>Up to 20%</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How many nights away do Scouts have the opportunity to attend per year?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 or more</li> <li>3-4</li> <li>Up to 3</li> </ul>	

## Skills for Life

### Actions for YOUR GROUP:

Group Scout Leaders should

- Roll out the updated Brand across the group
- Support Growth
- Help all section leaders and assistants to complete programme training modules (12A and 12B)
- Ensure all groups are complete (beaver, cub and scout sections)
- Complete Inclusivity RAG checklists for the group
- Support two 18-24 year olds on the Group Executive Committee
- Ensure all sections run A Million Hands project

See <https://scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/volunteer-actions/section-leaders/> for more details

## Youth Investment Fund Update

Work on the Youth Investment Fund project in Darlington and Sunderland continues apace, even though Growth and Development Officer Joanne is leaving us to take up a more senior role in the Regional Services Team (but we have already identified a replacement).

We've seen new recruits join scout troops and explorer scout units in both districts and are delighted to say that we're opening a new scout group in Skerne Park, Darlington (the 27<sup>th</sup> Darlington).

Ben has started to deliver some great activities with scouts and explorer scouts from the two districts, including a combined walking and climbing weekend at Simonside. Planning on gorge walking and more challenging outdoor climbing is also well underway and the long-term plan is that all these adventurous

activities will also be able to be delivered to scouts and explorer scouts from other districts

Over the summer Ben, Joanne and lots of our volunteers from around the county engaged with around 1,000 15 to 17-year olds National Citizen's Service (NCS) participants from Sunderland and Tees Valley, telling them all about Scouting and opportunities to join explorer scouts and / or to become a young leader.

You should also look out for recruitment information for our new part-time fundraiser role which will be appearing in the next few weeks.

## County Adult Recruitment Team

As part of the County Development / Action Plan, we'll be appointing a new Assistant County Commissioner (Adult Support), who will head up a new County Adult Recruitment Team (which will be a new county scout active support unit).

The 'CART' will be responsible for developing and sharing best practices for recruiting more adult volunteers, using some really great resources which are already available on the Scout's national website (see <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/1836/recruiting-adult-volunteers?cat=419.268.269>)

In addition, the CART will be:

- Running local adult recruitment workshops, to help all GSLs and leaders understand how best to identify, recruit and retain more adult volunteers
- Engage with local organisations to encourage more adults to volunteer with Durham Scouts
- Supporting district and groups with adult recruitment at suitable large events.



Promoting Scouting to NCS participants at Moor House

We don't of course have hundreds of volunteers waiting in the wings to take on this work and most of the members of the CART will come from our districts. That means that we'll be looking for volunteers who have great personalities, have good interpersonal skills and who are confident to talk to prospective volunteers.

Once the new ACC (Adult Support) is appointed we'll start to recruit members to the County Adult Recruitment Team and provide training in recruitment best practices to members of the team.

## Youth Shaped Scouting



**Mark Ireland**  
County Youth Commissioner  
youth@durhamscouts.org.uk

## Cubboree and Beaver Picnic Feedback

We had a big success in June with our feedback gathering at Cubboree and Beaver Picnic.

At the Beaver Picnic we gathered feedback on a whole range of questions. It was great to see that everyone who participated enjoyed the Beaver Picnic and want to return next year.

This year at Cubboree the youth team had a stronger presence. As well as to having our YouShape Space we also took part as the stage team. During this time, we gathered an amazing 80 cub responses. Each cub was

asked one of the 5 questions and we got very positive feedback. When they were asked to rate Cubboree out of 10, the lowest score we got was 7 and the majority voted 10 out of 10!

We were glad to see that the cubs and beavers had a great time at these events.

## Next Up – Confido!

The next event to spot the Youth Team at is Confido, where we will be running a range of activities in our YouShape space to gather thoughts on a larger scale.

Please do let your scouts and explorer scouts know that we'll be there and that we want their feedback on Confido and on scouts and explorer scouts in general.

## YouShape Online

We also want to make people aware that we have a #YouShape scouting section on the Durham Scouts website, where you'll find lots of #YouShape resources that you may find useful:

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/youshape-scouting/youshape-resources/>

These can help you run your own #YouShape programmes within your sections and make sure that your young people are providing real input to your programmes.

Also make sure to check out our social media accounts. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Our young people tell us what's cool and not so cool about county events

## Sectional Forums

Although the meetings are the same, we're now calling our regular county meetings for the beaver, cub, scout and explorer scout/network sections "Sectional Forums", to reflect the fact that they are about sharing ideas and best practices as much as about providing support.

These are your opportunity to meet other leaders from across the county, to input to the planning of county events and competitions, to share your ideas and to ask questions of your colleagues.

September's meeting was well attended (our best attendance yet) and meetings are open to sectional Assistant District Commissioners as well as Section Leaders and Assistants.

The next meeting for the beaver section, cub section and scout sections are on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Moor House.

However, the explorer/network section are going out on the road to visit districts (see 'Explorer Scouts' below)

## Sectional Facebook Links

Also remember that we have Facebook groups/pages where you can also share ideas and ask questions of other leaders across the county.

You can also catch all the latest news about county events and competitions and find links to photographs and videos.

Check them out at:

- **Beavers:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/143786182977770/>
- **Cubs:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327518474321762/>
- **Scouts:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163235637520159/>
- **Explorers:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/77418779457101/>
- **Young Leaders:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/durhamyoungleaders/>
- **Network:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/DurhamScoutNetwork>

## Beaver Scouts

### Beaver Picnic



As reported in the last newsletter, this year's Beaver Picnic was another great day and the photographs are on the county Flickr account at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/durhamscouts/sets/72157692297892220>

## Skills for Life

### Actions for YOUR DISTRICT:

District Commissioners and their teams should

- Ensure all groups are complete (beavers, cubs AND scouts)
- Appoint District Growth and Development Lead if not already in place
- Ensure that quality programme and practical skills event is provided for section leaders every year
- Use the Inclusivity RAG Assessment
- Encourage all groups and sections to use the Inclusivity RAG Assessment
- Appoint a District Youth Commissioner if not already in place
- Support Youth Commissioner to develop a Youth Shaped scouting action plan
- Support two 18-24 year old members of the District Executive
- Ensure that all groups run A Million Hands project, or organise it as a district

See <https://scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/volunteer-actions/districts> for more details

## New Beaver Events for 2019!

### Beaver Climbing Day

Beaver scouts will have the opportunity to go climbing at Simonside Wall on 2nd February 2019.

Look out for an update on the Durham Scout website to register expressions of interest for the event and we'll also be emailing beaver leaders details about the event so that you can book your beaver scouts up.

We'll also be looking for plenty of support from those with belay / climbing adventurous activity permits (AAPs) so if you're a member of the county climbing team, please put the date in your diary.

### Damboree – Beavers in Tents

Following the success of this year's Damboree (<https://www.damboree.co.uk/>) we'll be organising a county beaver camp in tents with the aim of beavers getting used to camping and hopefully getting more leaders to validate/gain their nights away permits.



More details will be announced when a date is confirmed, but the aim is to have this at Moor House in June.

### Beaver Pantomime

One final reminder that bookings for this year's Beaver Pantomime (Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs, @1pm on Sunday 2nd December at The Gala Theatre in Durham) close on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**.

If you still need to book, go to <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/beaver-panto-2018/> - but hurry!

## Cub Scouts



(We're sorry – Lesley didn't like her picture and has offered to provide a better one...)

### Cubboree 2018

Wow!! The events team excelled themselves with Cubboree this year!!!!

It was the biggest and best Cubboree yet and what amazing activities were on offer to our cubs!! (see all the photographs at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/durhamscouts/albums/72157698291317165> and watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmVP-6aQ3iQ&t=8s> )

We were joined by Mark Tarry, Deputy UK Chief Commissioner, and his daughter (who tried all the activities and didn't want to go home!!).

I think it is safe to say he was rather impressed with what we achieved and the experiences we provide for our young people!

We can't wait for the Cubboree experience at Durham 2020 to see how we can make it even bigger and better!!!



This year's Cubboree enjoyed great weather

## FW Dunn Photography Competition

Entries for this competition continue to be on the low side, despite the change in format and the opportunity to earn an activity badge.

Feedback from leaders at programme support meetings is that it is often forgotten by leaders in the busy cub calendar. If you have any ideas to help us promote it, please let us know.

## Our 'Selfie' Adventure



This year's FW Dunn photography competition winner

We did however have enough entries to hold the competition and awarded the trophy to Edward Cottam, 86th Sunderland for his "Selfie Adventure" poster (pictured) and Sam Oxberry, 36th Sunderland was awarded runner up.

That took us to the summer break and a chance for you to recharge the batteries, or maybe to get out camping with your groups and districts. We look forward to seeing some of your pictures on the Durham county cub leaders page soon.

## Cooper Cup

We had hoped to return in September with a bang and the Cooper Challenge Cup. Unfortunately, we have had several issues this year with this competition.

It was planned to hold this at National Trust Gibside but it proved too restrictive to hold the competition there in the way that was intended.

We then decided that this should remain at Waldrige Fell, but we were unable to run the competition this year because rain shortly before the event significantly eroded one of the paths and this couldn't be made safe in time.

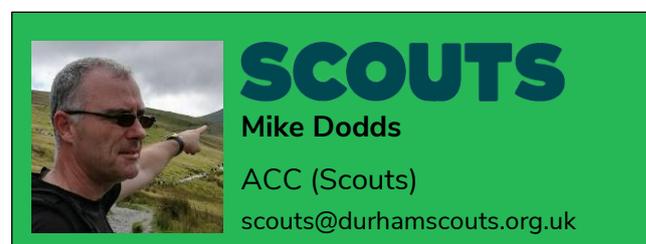
We will be back next year, bigger and better with a new route and the ability to take more teams.

Don't forget that the Cubs Team is always here to help and support - why not come along to our sectional forum meetings?

Durham County Cub Leaders is a closed Facebook group and has been created so that cub leaders can share ideas, ask for help and advice and keep up to date on cub events taking place each year.

If you have any questions just ask and please do share your activities - we would love to see what you've been getting up to!

## Scouts



So, I've now been in my role for just coming up to a year now and my learning curve is still steep. The only flatish bit I can see is the end of the slope where I take off and fly, so it looks as if I'm going to continue learning well into 2019!

## Dryburn Cup and Vaux Shield

I'm quite proud with the achievements so far in my first year as ACC (Scouts), as we've managed to re-institute the Dryburn Cup and Vaux Ambulance competitions coming up with a new format,

This seemed to work and as mentioned in my last post it was well received by the scouts who took part and the Leaders who helped run the event over the weekend.



The revamped Dryburn Cup competition

Next year, we're looking at upping the game with the general competition and are also looking at inviting up to ten teams to test their camping and first aid skills along with enhancing their leadership and team building qualities of the individual participants.

Within the revamp I intentionally looked at the scout section programme. If any of your scouts take part in the weekend they can quite easily fulfil a number of badges based around outdoors challenges, team work, cooking, and general camping first aid activities, so if you need to fill some gaps in badge work, get a team entered.

## Go Karting Weekend

The Go Karting weekend didn't happen and I apologise for this, but both life and work took over and there was no time left to fully arrange and organise this weekend, which has been postponed until next year.

Once I have developed the ideas further and confirmed a date (I am looking at early July) I will let you all know, so watch this space.

## Kandersteg Trip

Our International Trip to Kandersteg is now definitely taking shape nicely. I would like to say that we have an excellent set of young people going who will be soon getting their specifically branded UK Neckers, hoodies

and T shirts, so look out for those, hopefully at Confido, (subject to delivery).

In anticipation of the county trip next year and as 'research', I managed to persuade my family to have a holiday in the Kandersteg Valley and we were well impressed with the beauty and grandeur of the place and I know for a fact that the scouts attending next year are in for an excellent time. I have even set a challenge to beat: 1 minute 17 seconds from top to bottom of the infamous Oeschinensee Toboggan Run.

## Flamingo Land Trip

By the time the newsletter is published I know that a lot of you will just have come back from the regional scout trip to Flamingo Land, where 500 scouts will have descended on the place.



Darlington scouts getting wet at Flamingo Land

I hope you and your scouts enjoyed your day and I can vouch for the Hero and Velocity rides, which were great when I was there with my scouts on camp earlier in the summer.

To close, I would like to congratulate every scout in the county who attended the recent County Awards Day, whether for winning a county competition or for gaining your Chief Scout Gold Award - well done to all of you.

## Explorer Scouts



Scott has gone AWOL this month, so here's a round-up of the explorer scout news while he's off having fun (but seriously, congratulations to Scott and Carla on your marriage – enjoy the honeymoon!)

### A Busy Summer

Our explorer scouts have had a busy summer (as usual), with lots of explorer scout camps, the Outward Bound "Skills for Life" course and of course, our crew in the Tall Ships race.

As many of you will have heard at the county AGM or the county Awards Day, our tall ships crew had a great trip, but the race itself was extremely challenging for a variety of reasons (e.g. 7-8m metre high waves, force

7-8 winds and a helicopter evacuation in the middle of the night!).

### Explorer/Network 'Road Show'

As agreed at the September section forum meeting, we're going to be taking the explorer scout and scout network section forum meetings out on the road.

Instead of asking everyone to come to Moor House on a Wednesday evening three or four times a year, we're going to rotate the meetings around the districts, with a forum every two months or so, on different nights of the week.

We hope that this will give more Explorer Scout Leaders, DESCs and DSNCs a chance to meet with one another to discuss topics of interest, and provide a chance to answer any questions on top awards or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

### Full House!

We can now share the news that for the first time, every district in Durham County now has a District Explorer Scout Commissioner in place.



Tall Ships action - the James Cook on the left, complete with Durham explorer scouts crew

We wish all new DESCs every success in their role and thank all our District Commissioners for making these appointments.

## Explorer Scout Leaders / Young Leader Unit Leaders Workshops

We now have a date for our promised Explorer Scout Leaders / Young Leader Unit Leaders Workshops.

These are:

- **Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- **Venue:** Moor House Adventure Centre

The idea is to provide any new DESCs, and Explorer Scout Leaders, Assistants and Young Leader Unit Leaders the chance to attend some section specific workshops with experienced leaders and commissioners and to provide a chance to socialise and share ideas

Explorer scouts is working well in Durham, but there are a lot of people supporting the explorer scout section who principally work in other sections and who do not have an explorer scout wood badge, or who are new to Scouting.

The weekend workshops will provide insights to what is different about the explorer scout section e.g. the reasons why it's a district provision rather than a group section, why the explorer scout method of operation is different to other sections and what goes through the mind of a typical 14 to 17-year-old (!!).

It's your chance to learn all about Generation Z...

We'll also be looking at the young leader scheme best practices and how we can all work together to make the young leader scheme as effective as possible across the county.

The weekend will be flexible so that anyone can 'drop in' to the various workshops, but you can also stay over the weekend.

The only cost for the weekend will be for lunch and breakfasts and for those staying over we'll be going out to eat or ordering in for our evening meals (there will be

no young persons staying overnight and this will NOT be a 'dry' weekend).

Keep your eyes on county social media and your email inboxes for more details and come along for some fun, informative sessions.

## Young Leaders




**Iain Wood**  
ACC (Young Leaders)  
yl@durhamscouts.org.uk

## October Young Leader Training

The next county young leader training weekend is just under a month away and there are still places left.

This weekend is best suited to new young leaders who want to complete most of their training modules in one weekend, so that they can embark on their missions.



Camp fire fun on the last county young leader training weekend

Details are as follows:

- **Dates:** 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- **Venue:** Moor House Adventure Centre
- **Modules:**
  - Module A - "Prepare for Take-Off!"
  - Module B - "Taking the Lead"
  - Module C - "That's The Way to Do It"
  - Module D - "Understanding Behaviour"

- Module E - "Game On!"
- Module F - "Making Scouting Accessible and Inclusive"
- Module G - "What is a High Quality Programme?"
- Module H - "Programme Planning"

You can find out more and book places for your Young Leaders at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/young-leaders/>

Note that the module will be using the new HQ resources recently published (see last newsletter) and we'll be making copies of updated slides and other materials available to local Young Leader trainers.

## New Young Leader Team and SASU

You told us at the County Development Conference that improving the delivery of the young leader scheme was important - and we listened.

Subject to the usual Appointments Advisory Committee interviews, we can provisionally announce the appointment of four more ACCs (Young Leaders) who are:

- Jamie Shirra
- Sue Freeburn
- Lewis Dawe
- Joseph Keogan

The new team have already met with the County Commissioner to review the young leader scheme actions under the County Development / Action Plan and have already started to think about who does what,

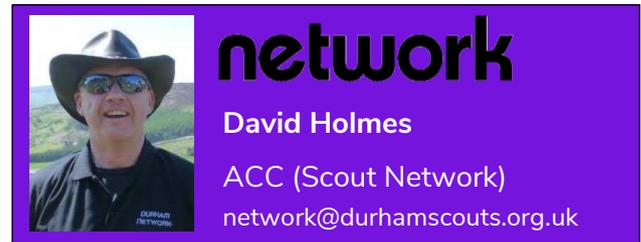
As part of the plan, we have opened a new county scout active support unit which will be open to:

- Young leader unit leaders
- Young leader trainers
- Section leaders working with young leaders

To find out the rest of the plan for improving the young leader scheme, take a look in the County Development / Action Plan at

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/2018-2023-development-plan/>

## Scout Network



Our latest network county forum again shows evidence that the Network message is beginning to get through and Networks are available in many districts. Thanks to those who came along and who are doing so much to support or start district scout networks.

## Network Chill Out Camp

We are looking forward to our annual Network Chill Out Weekend at West Hall, which is on 4th to 6th January 2019.

All are welcome, and we are hopeful of our best supported event so far. Watch out for invites on the county Facebook group.



Chilling out at the last Network chill out camp

I must share a huge thanks to South Tyneside District and the West Hall Team for their ongoing support of this Network Camp over many years now.

## Network Forums on the Road

We are going to take our sectional forums for network (and explorers) on the road, and try to visit more localised area meetings, offering support for DESC's,

DSNC's and Top Award's, as well as provide opportunities for explorers and network members to meet up and share experiences.

Watch out for a meeting either in your district, or an adjacent one over the next year, but of course, all will be welcome to attend any session as dates will all be made available.

## Facebook Group

Please remember that we share information on wider Network events on the County Network Facebook Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/durhamscoutnetwork/>

Please join up if not already a member, to ensure you see all that is going on and are able to make an informed choice as to whether to get involved. (Please answer the security question stating your district network when requesting access).

## Well Done!

Congratulations to Sam Walton in Derwentside on the completion of her Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Queen's Scout Award!

It is great to see more Network members (and some explorer scouts) completing their Queen's Scout Award and we look forward to seeing you all at Windsor next April.

## District Scout Network Commissioners

While we have a full set of DESCs on the county, that's not the case for District Scout Network Commissioners (DSNC)

Could we again remind DC's of the importance of having a DSNCs in post in each district so that we are offering appropriate support for those over 18 wishing to continue their youth programme and continue with their awards, and to ensure that the Network option is fully understood and made available.

Lastly, if you need any targeted support with Network in your area, please ask me along, and if there are any good news Network stories from around the county, please let me know so I can share your great work.

## Activities



Stephen Ramsay

ACC (Activities)

activities@durhamscouts.org.uk

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

There has again been good growth in the number of DofE awards achieved in the last 12 month, with 75 awards (compared to 63 in the same period last year). All our DofE award recipients were invited to the Awards Day in September to celebrate their success with their parents.

It is especially pleasing to see that the growth is mainly in Silver and Gold Awards which take longer to achieve. I am delighted with the standard of awards gained, and it is encouraging to see more than the minimum requirements being met with lots of additional evidence: photographs, logs and records of achievement on the way, making my job of award verifier so much easier.

Thank you to everyone in the county involved in supporting the DofE – our leaders and expedition supervisors and assessors.

## Hillwalking Courses

The next county hillwalking course is No.112 and is at Chester's on 26<sup>th</sup> -28th October 2018.



Improve your navigation on a county hillwalking course

It includes a wild camping Nights Away Permit endorsement – useful for leaders helping with DofE and QSA expeditions. There are a limited number of indoor places available on the course for those people who want to gain a permit but do not need the wild camping endorsement.

...Or if you just want to learn basic navigation for low level walks or for personal satisfaction why not just come on the Navigation Introduction Day on 14th October?

## Archery

Since the introduction of the minimum shooting distance of 10m for all classes of archery we are finding it difficult for beavers and small cubs to physically manage to hit the target.

This does not really encourage them to try again. Many groups are starting to look at providing 'flu-flu' toy bows and arrows to get them started.



Good range safety is essential

A word of warning though - please teach good safe range discipline in accordance with Archery GB guidelines, because next week they may be big enough to shoot real arrows with real bows!

There are only a few places left on archery course No 7, which is on 29th and 30th September 2018 at 1<sup>st</sup> Whickham Scout HQ in Gateshead district.



Come and help set new routes at Moor House

## Climbing

In the coming weeks we are hoping to re-route the 40' tower at Moor House. This is to allow it to be used more widely for climbing by our members.

The plan to make it easier for smaller climbers to complete the route, but also to include proper climbing grades which are required for our young people to complete the scouts climber badge.

Since the last Durham ePost I have had no requests from scout leaders keen to use the offer of the climbing team to run the climber's badge - is there anyone out there who would like to do this with their scouts?

I am meeting with the MAPS (Manager of the Adventurous Activity Team) from Northumberland with a view to working more closely with our neighbouring county. It's my original home county so I know we have a lot to offer each other in the way of mutual support.

As part of that we will be looking at striking a deal with Newcastle Climbing Centre, to allow our leaders to instruct under their Adventurous Activity Permits, similar to indoor centres in Durham. It is hoped that this will add another great option to our list of 'scout friendly' centres.

## Water Activites

Crewing a Tall Ship on the race from Norway to the Netherlands is not the only water activity that has been on offer this summer.

Lee Rushworth has new qualifications in some water activities and will be able to assess people for a number water permits.

Thanks to Lee for taking this on - congratulations on your new qualifications and welcome again to the team

As with all activities- if you have any queries or questions please get in touch.

## International



## Summer 2018

Over the summer we have had members attending international events as part of the UK contingent at Roverway in Holland (in three joint Patrols with Northumberland Scouts), explorers scouts taking part in the Tall Ships in both the Sunderland to Esbjerg and the Stavanger to Harlingen Race (the latter with our own crew), groups and district's visiting France and Switzerland, with myself on a community development project in Uganda.

The reports that we've received are that everyone had a great time on their international expeditions and visits abroad and thanks must go to all the leaders who have planned and supported these events.



Durham and Northumberland Scouts on their Roverway walking tour of Amsterdam

## Looking Ahead to 2019

Next year is looking very exciting on the international stage for Durham.

As well as the Jamboree and the county trip to Kandersteg, I have already had details of trips next year to Kenya, Croatia, Holland, Andorra and France, which is fantastic.

If you are planning a visit please let me know as soon as possible so I can add you to the list and help with the planning and paperwork that is need by HQ.

## World Scout Jamboree and County Trip to Kandersteg

Planning for both of our Jamboree Units (Unit 30 and 33) is going well.

In 10 months both Units and our International Service Team members will be at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia.

Please see if you can help those attending in your district with the fundraising and support events they are running.

Running alongside the Jamboree, we also have a county trip to Kandersteg, and several the unit leaders have just returned from a planning visit to Switzerland, and from what I know there are some fantastic activities being planned.

## European Jamboree



2020 sees the first European Jamboree for many years, being held in Gdansk Poland (see <https://www.ej2020.org/> )

The last European Jamboree was in 2005 which was held in the UK. Because of the location this will be a much less expensive option for leaders and young people and we currently estimate that the cost will be less than half that of the last two World Scout Jamborees (~£1,500, with some funding support from the county and plenty of opportunities to fundraise).

We are currently looking for adults who are interested in roles as Unit Leaders or International Service Team and more details are available on the county website at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/european-jamboree-2020/>

We can appoint up to 4 Leaders and 5 International Service Team to this event.

Depending on how many unit leaders apply and are appointed, Durham can send a Unit of up to 36 explorer scout aged young people (aged 14, 15, 16 or 17 at the time of the event) and we really hope to be able to appoint four leaders and send a full Unit of 40.

We will be appointing the Unit Leaders very shortly and then selecting Unit members, so watch out for the information on how to apply.

## Where else can we go?

The latest update of International Opportunities is available at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=52.208>

This covers some of the UK based Jamborees as well as overseas events.

Also remember that each year, the Boy Scouts of America invite scouts aged 18-30 to help with international summer camps in the USA.

## Events



## County Awards Day

Thanks to everyone who helped deliver another fantastic County Awards Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

A team of 30 people helped to deliver this year's massive Awards Day event and this year we invited more than 600 young people to be recognised for achieving their top awards.

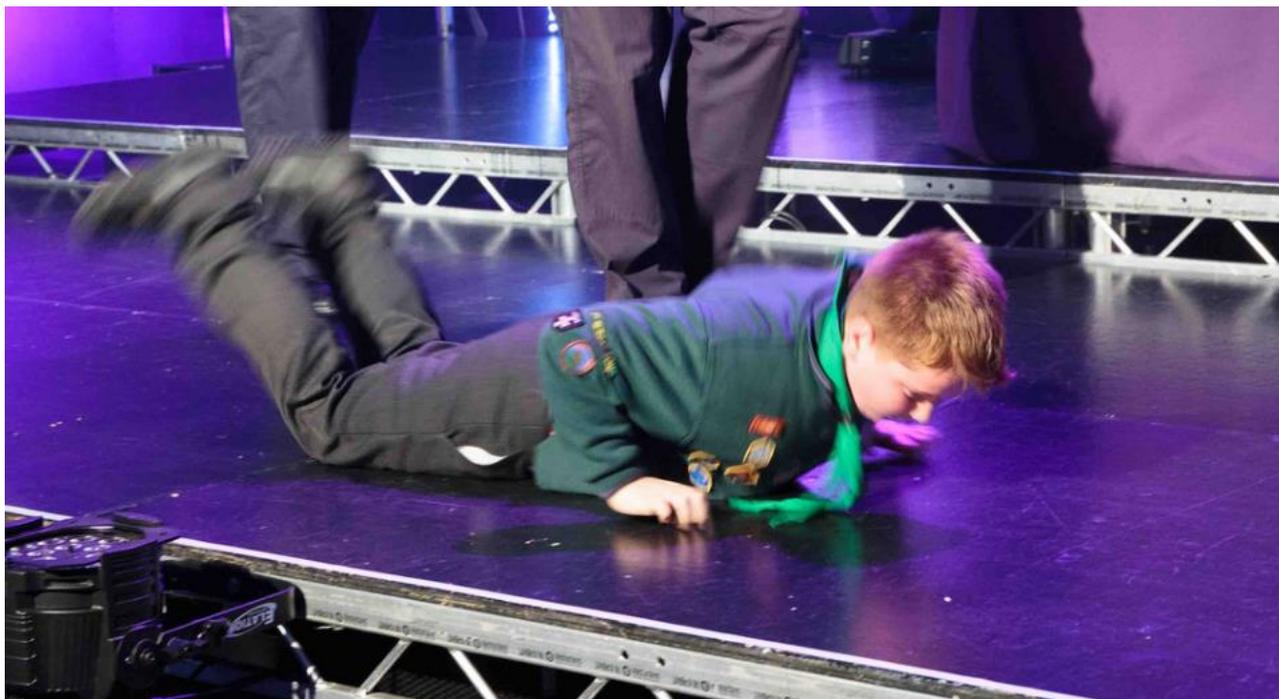


We're all #superproud of the 600+ young people whose awards were recognised this year

This meant managing more than 1,700 people in three sessions and the Events Team once again did a fantastic job.

- You can watch a recording of the last session (scouts, explorer scouts and network) at <https://youtu.be/Dr6zXLXGuFU>
- You can also view and download copies of all the official photographs from the county Flickr site, with the Awards Day photos available via <https://www.flickr.com/photos/durhamscouts/sets/72157698193535462>

Well done to all our award recipients and we hope to see even more of you there next year.



A cub scout 'worms' his way in to the hearts of the awards day audience

## Confido 2018

Our last major event of the year is of course Confido, which has a 'beach' theme and is on from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Due to massive demand, all the places at this year's Confido will be taken by Durham scouts and explorers, and we're really sorry that not everyone was able to book a space



This year our brilliant Build Team will be supported by a team from Northumbria Water who are using a day of social action to support us, under Northumbria Water's corporate social responsibility programme.

Although all of the scout, explorer scout and leader places are full, it's not too late to volunteer as staff for the weekend or to help with the pre-event build – see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/confido2018/staff-team/>

## Durham2020

Earlier in September we held a packed information evening for our Durham2020 International Camp.



BOOK NOW! There's already a lot of interest in Durham2020

Booking for scouts and explorer scouts is now open and we've already started to take our first bookings for the event. There is a lot of interest in the event and we've even had enquiries from as far away as Australia and New Zealand!

You can find out everything you need to know about the event at <https://www.durham2020.org.uk/> and you can make a booking to reserve your places at <https://www.durham2020.org.uk/book-now/>

Note that bookings for the beaver and cub scout programmes do not open until the summer of 2019.



If you'd like a Durham2020 roadshow in your district to tell all your members about this fantastic international camp on our doorstep, just contact us and we'll be in touch.

## Active Support

**/activesupport**

**Victoria Pelling**

ACC (Scout Active Support)  
sasud@durhamscouts.org.uk

## New County SASUs

As part of the new County Development / Action Plan, we are creating two new county scout active support units.

The first of these is a new County Adult Recruitment Team (CART) and the second is a new Young Leader Team (you can read more about them elsewhere in the newsletter).

We now have more 300 volunteers in the various county SASUs and If you want to get involved in either of these new SASUs (or any of our existing support team SASUs), go to

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/county-active-support/> to find out more and to sign up.

The full list of county SASUs is:

- Adventurous Activities Team
- Diversity and Inclusion Team
- Events Team
- First Aid Team
- Friends of Moor House

- Media / Digital Team
- Young Leader Team (NEW!)
- County Adult Recruitment Team (NEW!)

## District and Group SASUs

Scout active support units are a great way to manage, organise and recognise the service of our supporters, whether they are parents in a group or other volunteers who cannot take on a leadership role for any reason.

Every SASU should have a Service Agreement and every SASU member should deliver some active support over the course of the year – contrary to what some people still think, SASUs are not just social clubs for retired scouters.

You can find out more about scout active support units at

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2797/introduction-to-scout-active-support/?cat=13&moduleID=10> and you can always contact me for support and advice in setting up a group or district SASU.

## Diversity and Inclusion



**May James & Nat Hayler**  
ACCs (Diversity & Inclusion)  
diversity.inclusion  
@durhamscouts.org.uk



## Pride 2018

Back in July, members of Durham Scouts took part in Northern Pride, along with our friends from Northumberland Scouts.

It was great to see that we had even more supporters there than last year, including more of our young people who are proud to show their own support and who are proud to be members of a organisation that passionate about diversity and inclusion.

As well as the parade, we again had a stall at the main Pride event and we again had a fantastic response from members of the LGBT+ and wider community who were delighted to see Scouting well represented.



*A great atmosphere as Durham and Northumberland Scouts celebrate their pride in diversity*

Just as importantly, everyone who came had a great day out with lots of smiles and laughs, especially when a dog did it's business during the middle of the County Commissioner's video blog recorded during the parade (see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/cc-blog/a-great-week-for-diversity-and-inclusion/> for a laugh!)

## Reasonable Adjustments

Earlier in the summer we had an issue come up where a group struggled to include a young person who had a temporary disability due to an injury.

While this was resolved, this was only after some time due to communications issues and the time taken to understand the nature of the temporary disability.

A solution was found only after leaders were able to meet with the young person's parents and understand the true nature of the injury and the resulting limitations.

After this it was possible to understand what reasonable adjustments needed to be made (what additional support was needed) to allow the young person to attend camp.

This shows once again how important it is to meet with parents/carers (and sometimes the young person

themselves), to understand physical limitations, behaviours, triggers and the level of support needed.

In the clear majority of cases we are then able to make reasonable adjustments to allow our young people to participate in our programmes alongside our other youth members.

If in doubt about a young person's abilities, the first thing to do is seek some advice if needed (see below), and to speak with parents/carers to ensure that we understand the practicalities of any temporary or permanent disability or medical condition, so that we can make the necessary reasonable adjustments.

## Diversity and Inclusion Support

Remember, there are some great resources on diversity and inclusion on the Scout Association website, under the heading "Scouting for All" (see <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=377>)

If you have a question or need support on any aspect of diversity or inclusion, you can contact the Diversity and Inclusion Team on the email address above.

## Safeguarding



**Sheila Gibbon**

Safeguarding Coordinator

[safeguarding@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@durhamscouts.org.uk)

*(Note: Please use the above e-mail address for general safeguarding queries only.*

*Report all safeguarding issues or concerns direct to your District Commissioner, not to the above e-mail address).*

## Safeguarding Training

Face-to-face Safeguarding training (mandatory ongoing learning) is scheduled for 18th Sept, which means that it's now too late to book.

However, we now have more safeguarding trainers in the county and if you need to attend five-year mandatory safeguarding training or would like us to arrange a session in your district please let us know using the email address above.

## Safer Internet Day 2019

The 2019 Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 5th February, with a global theme of 'together for a better internet'

You can find more information at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day> and early February would be an ideal time to look at Internet safety with your youth members.

## Resources:

The latest edition of the UK Safer Internet Centre newsletter has a useful article answering questions from parents about online safety for their children.

This contains some useful information which could easily be used in programme sessions with your young people.

This can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y7eoh7x6>

## Yellow and Orange Cards

We still have no firm date for the release of the new 'young people first' yellow and orange cards, except that it's may be some time in September / October.

In the meantime, version 5 of the yellow card should be used and is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ybhgzseyz>

The 2015 version of the orange card can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yb93f4yw>

## Online County Safeguarding Page

Finally, do keep checking the county website safeguarding pages for updates and new information.

The link is <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/safeguarding/>

## Adult Training



**Ian Johnson**

County Training Manager

[training@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@durhamscouts.org.uk)

As you may have noticed from the above, we now have a new County Training Manager.

Justine was unable to continue in the role due to personal time constraints, but we're pleased to say that Ian Johnson has now been appointed as County Training Manager (CTM).

Improved support for adult training was rated as the second highest priority at the County Development Day and Ian takes on the challenging task of ensuring that our adult training in the county meets the needs of our volunteers.



During the rest of 2018 we will continue to deliver the planned adult training modules (dates below).

Under the national Skills for Life strategy we expect to see some significant changes to adult training in the next few years, making adult training more focused, more flexible and more accessible.

However, we need to make improvements before any new national training scheme is rolled out (which is expected to take several years).

Between now and then, we will be working under the County Development / Action Plan to:

- Develop a new training plan for 2019, to include residential and practical skills training, and additional core wood badge modules (programme planning and delivery). This will include options to leverage training opportunities in neighbouring counties where applicable
- Identify and appoint additional county trainers, local training managers and training advisers
- Work with other county team members to develop and deliver a catalogue of additional on-going learning opportunities (webinars, workshops etc)
- Make the booking process for all training, workshops and webinars easier and more consistent.

There is a lot of work involved and we will likely be appointing Deputy CTMs to assist Ian with aspects of this work.

## Wood Badge Training Dates

Before we launch the new 2019 training plan, the remaining Wood Badge dates for 2018 are as follows

- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Module 11 – [Administration](#)
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Module 19 – [International](#)

[Book Durham Training Now](#)

## Governance (Trustee) Support

### Gift Aid

Is your scout group or district one of the 30 in the county who are NOT registered for Gift Aid?

*giftaid it*

(Districts should be registered to be able to claim Gift Aid on explorer scout subscriptions – because explorer scouts is a district provision. Gift Aid on explorer scout subscriptions must not be reclaimed by scout groups because explorer scouts are not members of the group).

If you're not registered for Gift Aid, you're missing out on one of the simplest and easiest sources of income. In some cases, grant making bodies will not make grants or awards if you're not registered for Gift Aid, and this can become a 'double whammy' of lost income.

For more information on how to register for Gift Aid and what can and cannot be included in your Gift Aid claims, visit [www.scouts.org](http://www.scouts.org) and search for 'Gift Aid' (you can now claim for more than you think!)

## Trustee Support Meeting

Just a reminder that the next governance (trustee) support meeting is in just few days, at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, at Moor House.

The main topics on the agenda for the October meeting will be:

- Charity reporting requirements, including looking at annual reports and accounts (see below), the use of pro-forma templates, reporting to the Charity Commission and reporting within Scouting.
- The roles and responsibilities of trustees, including the extent of automatic trustee insurance provided by the Scouts

## Annual Reports and Accounts

Every year we hear about one or two groups in the county who are struggling to deliver Scouting to their young people because the group's finances are in a mess or because there are issues with group HQ leases.

Starting in 2019 the scout county will be actively chasing districts for copies of their annual reports and accounts and will be providing feedback where these

do not meet Charity Commissioner or Scout Association requirements. We will of course also work with districts to support them in understanding and meeting these requirements.

It is also expected that districts will chase and support scout groups with respect to their annual reports and accounts, so that we can ensure that every district and group complies with mandatory requirements in this regard.

While this may seem unnecessary to some, ensuring that reports and accounts are in order also helps to ensure that the underlying processes needed to manage and govern groups and districts are also in place. This in turn means that our young people's Scouting is properly managed and ensures that any issues that arise can be handled properly.

## Moor House Adventure Centre

<http://moor-house.org.uk/>

[info@moor-house.org.uk](mailto:info@moor-house.org.uk)

(0191) 584 1703



### More Reinvestment at Moor House

You may already have noticed the new presentation facilities at Moor House, with a new large (4m) screen in the main hall (great for showing films at Cubboree and Confido) and new permanent projectors installed in the main hall and dining room.

These were some of the final items under Phase 1 of the Moor House development plan which is now complete, with Phase 2 projects now being well underway.

Following a good financial result in 2017-18, Moor House Adventure Centre have been reinvesting some of their operating surplus in further on-site facilities, including a new floor for the house kitchen and new tables and chairs in the dining room, and a great new activity...



Movies will be even better on the new Moor House 'Big Screen'

### ...New Zip Line

You may also have spotted on social media that we are installing a new, permanent zip line on site.

This makes full use of the length and height drop of the main field alongside the toboggan run and will make a great addition to the adventurous activities already on site.



The view from the new Moor House zip wire launch platform

You can get an idea of what the run will be like for our young people by watching the video of the 'test dummy' run on the Moor House Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Moorhouseadventure>